

**SEA GRANT WEEK
APRIL 2003**

**INTERNATIONAL SEA GRANT
Session Welcome by Ron Baird, NSGO Director**

- **IT IS MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO WELCOME OUR INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES TO THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS, AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S A NATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY TO WELCOME YOU TO SEA GRANT WEEK.**
- **SEA GRANT WEEK IS A VERY SPECIAL TIME FOR US - THE ONE TIME EVERY TWO YEARS THAT THE MANY FACES OF WHAT WE REFER TO AS THE SEA GRANT FAMILY FROM MANY DIVERSE PARTS OF THIS IMMENSE COUNTRY, COME TOGETHER IN REUNION TO CELEBRATE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE.**
- **YOU FOLKS NOW BEING SEA GRANTERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, ARE NOW AND FOREVER MORE PART OF THAT FAMILY. YOU ARE PIONEERS IN HELPING BUILD GLOBAL CAPACITY IN COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE SEA GRANT PARADIGM.**
- **NOTICE I SAID TWO KEY WORDS, GLOBAL AND FAMILY. I EMPHASIZE THESE WORDS BECAUSE THEY LIE AT THE HEART OF WHAT SEA GRANT IS ALL ABOUT.**
- **SEA GRANT HAS NO BOUNDARIES IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHY - OUR MISSION IS GLOBAL AND OUR FAMILY IS INCLUSIVE IN THAT WE ARE A NETWORK OF DISTRIBUTED RELATIONSHIPS BOUND BY A COMMON MISSION AND GOALS.**
- **SO WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY, SEA GRANT IS NOT A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION BUT ONE OF CONNECTING SOLUTIONS WITH PROBLEMS THROUGH PROGRAMS OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO USERS AND POLICY MAKERS.**
- **OUR INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNANCE MUST PERFORM AT THEIR BEST WORLDWIDE IF MANKIND IS TO AVOID MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE.**
- **TO DO THIS THEY WILL NEED CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE BOTH OF WHICH ARE WHAT SEA GRANT IS ALL ABOUT.**

- **SO, AS MY FAVORITE BUMPER STICKER SAYS, GOOD PLANETS ARE HARD TO FIND.**
- **MEANING WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE ONE WE HAVE AND THAT IS WHY WE STRONGLY SUPPORT A SEA GRANT PROGRAM THAT IS INTERNATIONAL IN CONCEPT AND SCOPE.**
- **SO WELCOME FRIENDS FROM HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, KOREA AND INDONESIA. YOU ARE IN THE VANGUARD OF A GROWING MOVEMENT AND YOU ARE NOW PART OF THE SEA GRANT FAMILY.**
- **WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO VISIT THROUGHOUT THIS EVENT AND PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS AND LEARN WHY WE ALL THINK SO HIGHLY OF SEA GRANT.**
- **WE HIGHLY VALUE YOUR INVOLVEMENT, YOUR ISSUES AND POINTS OF VIEW. THAT CAN ONLY HAPPEN THROUGH YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION HERE AT SEA GRANT WEEK.**
- **I FOR ONE LOOK FORWARD WITH INTEREST TO HEARING FROM YOU AND OUR COLLECTIVE THANKS FOR COMING A LONG WAY TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH US.**

THANKS.